**Ms. Susan Davis**

**St. Mark’s Episcopal School**

**5th-Grade Language Arts 2012-2013**

**Ultimate English Mission:** To master the numerous challenges necessary to learn independently and explore the World of Literature; to read voraciously and to share ideas openly; to connect and build relationships for learning together; to create and communicate artfully and intentionally with the English language.

Apprentices assume responsibility for their own learning in class and outside of it. Weekly assignments include independent reading (60 minutes per week for the first semester) and 90 minutes per week for the second semester); online discussion; “flipped” lessons; and leveling-up skills review.

All Apprentices are responsible for contributing to the learning environment, including participating in one Learning Team each quarter on a rotating basis. Apprentices will be asked embody leadership skills, productive collaborative interaction, and sharing of their learning for the greater good. All Apprentices are expected to be respectful of the learning process, prepared for action, and mindful of how their choices affect the learning of others. They are expected to be active, responsible participants in all learning missions.

**Learning Teams**

1. Reader Librarians
2. Cultural Anthropologists
3. Training Specialists
4. Resource Managers

**Mission 1: Poetry and the Art of Language**

**Quest**: Investigate new Worlds of Literature (poetry); be open to learning transparently in [Collaborize](http://www.collaborizeclassroom.com//); search and share discoveries in [Diigo](http://www.diigo.com/education); create an illustrated anthology of poems.

**Mission Manual:** Sharon Creech, *Love That Dog*, selected poems

**Skill Building (Leveling Up):**

*Wordskills* (Gold Level), Special Unit, Units 1-4, Vocab Lab 1

*English Workshop* (Introductory Course): Chapter 1: The Writing Process; Chapter 4: Creative Writing; Chapter 7: Sentence Workshops; Chapter 9: The Sentence

**Artifacts of Learning:**

Summer Reading Project (Tweetboard)

Personal Essay (“Self-Portrait as learner, introduction to anthology)

Personal Poetry Anthology

Weekly Writing Response

Quizzes and Tests

**Group Project:** Illustrated Poetry Calendar

**Mission 2: Stories and Storytelling**

**Quest:** Investigate new Worlds of Literature (stories); begin blogging (Edublogs); begin curating individual digital portfolios in [Wikispaces](http://www.wikispaces.com/content/teacher); create illustrated digital stories (fractured fairy tales).

**Mission Manual:** Lewis Carroll, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*; Jon Scieszka, *The Stinky Cheese Man*, selected stories

**Group Project:** Digital story anthology

**Mission 3:** **Drama and Presentation**

**Quest:** Investigate new Worlds of Literature (drama)

**Mission Manual:** William Gibson, *The Miracle Worker*

**Special Event:** Jon Scieszka Cool Brains! on February 25th

**Mission 4: TBA:** Reader Librarians select “Mission Manual” and Quest for the fourth quarter

**Project:** Finalize digital portfolio

**Backpack:**

1” Binder (for Artifacts of Learning, Team Notes, Mission Assignments, etc.)

Recycled Materials (for projects)

Composition Book (for in-class writing assignments, brainstorming, sketching, etc.)

Creativity Pack (anything you personally like to use to personalize, design, and decorate your learning environment; digital tools to share what you learn)

[Collaborize](http://www.collaborizeclassroom.com//) account (to be set up by teacher)

[Diigo Education](http://www.diigo.com/education) account (to be set up by teacher)

[Edublogs](http://edublogs.org/) account (to be set up by teacher)

[Wikispaces Education](http://www.wikispaces.com/content/teacher/) account (to be set up by teacher)

**Class Participation:**

Plus points will be given on a daily basis for completion of assignments, active discussion in class, and class work. Minus points will be given for missing assignments or disruptions to the learning process. Apprentices must total at least 8-10 plus points each week to earn a “Superior” rating for the week.